REMARKS

Claims 15, 16, 18-24, 32, 36 and 38-41 are now presented for examination. Claims 23 and 24 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer of subject matter. Claims 15, 16, 21, 32 and 36 have been amended to define still more clearly what Applicants regard as their invention, in terms which distinguish over the art of record. Claims 39-41 have been added to assure Applicants of the full measure of protection to which they deem themselves entitled. Claims 15, 32 and 36 are the only independent claims.

In view of the amendments above and the remarks below, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of the present application.

Claims 15, 16, 18-24, 32, 36, and 38 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) over U.S. Patent No. 6,680,746 (Kawai et al.). With regard to the claims as currently amended, this rejection is respectfully traversed.

Independent Claim 15 as currently amended is directed to communication apparatus connected to at least one camera and other communication apparatus and manages information of the state of the at least one camera. In the communication apparatus, a managing device manages a map image representing a location at which the at least one camera is disposed. The map image is identically used by plural communication apparatus. A first reception device receives the information concerning the at least one camera state. A processing device changes the map image according to the received information concerning the state of the at least one camera. A second reception device receives a request to transmit the map image from a communication apparatus included in the plural communication apparatus and a transmission device transmits the map image processed by the processing device to the communication apparatus requesting the map image via a network.

7

Independent Claim 32 as currently amended is directed to a communication method for communication apparatus connected to at least one camera and other communication apparatus and which manages information concerning the state of the at least one camera. According to the method, a map image representing the location at which one camera is disposed is managed. The map image is identically used by plural communication apparatus. The information concerning the state of the at least one camera is received. The map image is changed according to the received information concerning the state of the at least one camera. A request to transmit the map image from a communication apparatus included in the plural communication apparatus is received via a network and the processed map image is transmitted to the communication apparatus requesting the map image via the network.

Independent Claim 36 as currently amended is directed to a communication medium that stores a computer readable program for control of a communication apparatus connected to at least one camera and at least one monitor and manages information concerning the state of the at least one camera. In the method, a map image representing the location at which one camera is disposed is managed. The map image is identically used by plural communication apparatus. The information concerning the state of the at least one camera is received. The map image is changed according to the received information concerning the state of the at least one camera. A request to transmit the map image from a communication apparatus included in the plural communication apparatus is received via a network and the processed map image is transmitted to the communication apparatus requesting the map image via the network.

In Applicants' view, Kawai et al. discloses a camera control system for displaying a video image inputted from a plurality of cameras. In order to easily control each camera, a map showing positions of cameras is prepared. Along with the map, icons

indicating the positions of cameras are displayed on the map so that the directions of the cameras can be identified on the map. An operator is able to select a camera referring to the map and see the video image of the selected camera. When each of the cameras is to be operated, an operator uses a pointing device to operate an icon for a camera on the map. In this camera control system, a camera corresponding to each icon can be controlled for zooming, panning, tilting and focusing by operating the icon for each camera. An operator may delete, add or move the icon for a camera according to an actual structure of the camera system.

According to the invention defined in Claims 15, 32 and 36, a map image representing the location at which at least one camera is disposed is managed in one communication apparatus. The map image is identically used by plural communication apparatus. A request to transmit the map image is received by the one communication apparatus from a communication apparatus included in the plural communication apparatus via a network and a map image processed by the one communication apparatus is transmitted to the communication apparatus which requests the map image via the network.

Kawai et al. may disclose a system in which cameras are controlled and monitored. As disclosed with respect to Fig. 46, each communication circuit manages and displays only its own map image but does not manage the map image displayed by another communication apparatus. In contrast, it is a feature of Claims 15, 32 and 36 that the map image representing the location at which the at least one camera is disposed is managed at one communication apparatus and the map image managed by the one communication apparatus is identically used by plural communication apparatus.

It is another feature of Claims 15, 32 and 36 that the communication apparatus which manages the map image and processes the map image receives a request to transmit the map image from another communication apparatus of plural communication

9

apparatus via a network and transmits the processed map image to the communication apparatus requesting the map image. Kawai et al. only discloses communication of information that can be used to generate a request of a map image communication but does not in any manner suggest communication of the processed map image itself. Further, Kawai et al. only teaches display of an input map image but does not disclose outputting a request for transmission of a map image to another device. Accordingly, it is not seen that Kawai et al. in any manner teaches or suggests receiving a request to transmit the map image from the communication apparatus included in the plural communication apparatuses via the network, and then transmitting the processed map image to the communication apparatus which requests the map image via the network as in Claims 15, 32 and 36. It is therefore believed that Claims 15, 32 and 36 as currently amended are completely distinguished from Kawai et al. and are allowable.

A review of the other art of record has failed to reveal anything which, in Applicants' opinion, would remedy the deficiencies of the art discussed above, as references against the independent claims herein. Those claims are therefore believed patentable over the art of record.

The other claims in this application are each dependent from one or another of the independent claims discussed above and are therefore believed patentable for the same reasons. Since each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, however, the individual consideration or reconsideration, as the case may be, of the patentability of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully request favorable consideration and reconsideration and early passage to issue of the present application.

Applicants' attorney, Justin J. Oliver, may be reached in our Washington, D.C., office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address below.

Respectfully submitted,

Jack S. Cubert
Attorney for Applicants
Registration No. 24,245

FITZPATRICK, CELLA, HARPER & SCINTO
30 Rockefeller Plaza
New York, New York 10112-3801
Facsimile: (212) 218-2200
JSC/llp

DC_MAIN 193572v1